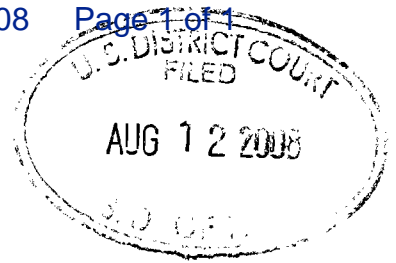


UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK  
UNITED STATES COURTHOUSE  
40 FOLEY SQUARE  
NEW YORK, NEW YORK 10007-1581



CHAMBERS OF  
DEBRA FREEMAN  
UNITED STATES MAGISTRATE JUDGE

August 11, 2008

Marc A. Rapaport, Esq.  
350 Fifth Avenue  
Suite 4400  
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521 Fifth Avenue  
New York, NY 10175

**Re: *Samiento v. Associated Press***  
**No. 08 Civ. 02897 (WHP) (DF)**


Dear Counsel:

This case has been referred to me by Judge Pauley for the purpose of settlement.

So that I may have a preliminary understanding of where the parties stand, I have scheduled a telephone conference on September 10, 2008 at 3:00 p.m. Counsel should arrange to initiate the call jointly to my chambers; the main number is (212) 805-4250.

Please have some serious settlement discussions between counsel prior to that call. I will expect you to address the status of those discussions on the call. Please understand that I will not schedule an in-person settlement conference until counsel can represent that they have engaged in earnest discussions on their own and, although they are interested in resolving the matter, they have been unable to do so without the Court's direct involvement.

Very truly yours,

  
Debra Freeman  
United States Magistrate Judge